

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-21 and 23 are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light of the specification, as per MPEP §2111.01, none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in independent claims, including an invention of a *method of identifying at least one exceptional managed computer amongst a set of comparable managed computers*.

Specifically, independent claims 1, 14 and 23 disclose selecting managed computers with system configuration attributes (defined at e.g. ¶ 0010); selecting parameterizations relating to one or more settings of the system configuration attributes (defined at e.g. ¶ 0054); determining patterns that characterize the parameterizations, comparing substantially each of the managed computers to substantially each of the patterns (defined at e.g. ¶ 0054); and identifying, based on the comparing, at least one exceptionally managed computer that has a parameterization that deviates from the parameterizations of the set of the managed computers (defined at e.g. ¶ 0055); wherein the patterns are determined by a supervised machine learning algorithm (defined at e.g. ¶ 0011).

A practical application of the invention is in computer system management (defined at e.g. ¶ 0004).

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Communications Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KALPANA BHARADWAJ whose telephone number is (571)270-1641. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am 5:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Vincent can be reached on (571) 272-3080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Bharadwaj Kalpana/
Examiner, Art Unit 2129
/David R Vincent/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2129